

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 242
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/21/23

Short Title: Wrightsville Beach Initiative Ordinances.

(Local)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 2, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH TO
3 INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE TOWN WHO
4 MUST SIGN A PETITION TO THE TOWN BOARD TO PLACE AN ORDINANCE
5 INITIATIVE ON THE BALLOT.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Section 6.1 of the Charter of the Town of Wrightsville Beach, being
8 Chapter 611 of the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

9 "Sec. 6.1. **Initiative ordinances generally; petitions.** Any proposed ordinance, which the
10 Board may lawfully adopt, may be submitted to the Board by petition ~~signed by the voters of the~~
11 ~~Town. If if~~ the petition accompanying the proposed ordinance is signed by voters of the Town
12 equal in number to at least ~~thirty-five percent (35%)~~ forty percent (40%) of the total number of
13 registered voters voting in residing within the Town of Wrightsville Beach at the time of the last
14 preceding regular municipal election and contains a request that such ordinance be submitted to
15 a vote of the people if not passed by the ~~Board,~~ Board. Upon receipt of a petition, the Board shall
16 either: (i) within 20 days after the Town Clerk and the New Hanover County Board of Elections
17 have certified the sufficiency of the accompanying petition, adopt the ordinance without
18 ~~alteration within 20 days after the Town Clerk and the New Hanover County Board of Elections~~
19 ~~have certified the sufficiency of the accompanying petition;~~ alteration or (ii) within 20 days after
20 the Town Clerk and the New Hanover County Board of Elections have certified the sufficiency
21 of the petition, ~~the Board of Aldermen shall call a special election to be held within six months,~~
22 ~~unless a general election is fixed within six months thereafter. on a date authorized by~~
23 G.S. 163-287(a). At such ~~special or general~~ election the ordinance shall be submitted without
24 alteration to the registered voters of the Town."

25 **SECTION 1.(b)** Section 6.5 of the Charter of the Town of Wrightsville Beach, being
26 Chapter 611 of the 1989 Session Laws, reads as rewritten:

27 "Sec. 6.5. **Sufficiency of petition.** The petition provided for herein shall only be signed by
28 ~~none but legal~~ registered voters of the Town. Each petition shall contain, in addition to the names
29 of the petitioners, the street and house number at which each petitioner resides, and ~~his or her the~~
30 age and length of residence in the ~~Town.~~ Town of each petitioner. It shall also be accompanied
31 by the affidavit of one or more legal-registered voters of the Town, stating that the signers thereof
32 were, at the time of the signing, legal-registered voters of the Town, and stating the number of
33 signers at the time the affidavit was made."

34 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to petitions
35 submitted on or after that date.

